
Subject: Piano Tuning - Up a semitone...

Posted by [Kim](#) on Sat, 22 Apr 2006 08:29:05 GMT

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Surely somebody here can fill me in on this.

I'm really after one basic peice of info.

I have a piano here, and it's got some sentimental value as it's the piano I learned to play on from age 5 to 20 or so. Thing is it's down half a step, or 90% of half a step. At the moment I don't like to play it, because while I don't have perfect pitch per se, I have enough of it for it to annoy me when something is flat. The piano is no real use to me as is, so I want to get it back to 440.

What's going to happen? I've heard that when a piano has been flat for a long time they tend to slip back. What I want to know is, is it like a guitar? Is it safe for me to assume that it's just going to keep slipping and need three or four tunes before it will settle on pitch? Or will it never tune to pitch?

If it's just a matter of tuning it several times I'm willing to get cracking and get it tunes to pitch. Indeed it would probably increase the amount I would practise jazz if I had a real piano at 440 to practise on.

The secondary question... what's to stop me grabbing the nearest chromatic tuner and a spanner and giving it a bash myself. Obviously it would take me a while, but is there any real trick to it. I mean if it's going to slip back out of pitch, I figure even if I do a bad job, I might as well life it up to around 440 and let it sit for a month before I get a real guy out here. Even if I do a bad job and it's not particularly good to play, surely I'm better off to have it close to 440 as a start point, rather than flat a semitone?

And while I'm at it, anybody know anything about fixing pianolas? ;o) When you start to pedal, a number of keys play when they're not supposed to, and it's leaking a fair bit of air... ...surely nothing some gaffa can't fix? ;o)

Cheers,
Kim.
